

EFFIGY PIPE FROM PUTNAM COUNTY, OHIO

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The Mississippians of AD 900 to 1600 were prolific in their manufacture of smoking pipes of various sizes, shapes, and materials. The people of the Ft. Ancient and Whittlesey expressions of the Mississippian culture in Ohio were no exception.

The pipe in Figures 1 and 2, from the collection of Ron Siebeneck, was found in Putnam County, in northwestern Ohio, in the 1940s. After much examination and discussion by Ron and his fellow hunters and trappers, it was concluded that the pipe depicts the head of a deer.

Effigy pipes of this period include representations of a menagerie of animals,

such as fish, birds, rabbits, salamanders, and even humans. A variety of raw materials was utilized including pipestone, slate (Eberle 2004:34), sandstone or claystone (Gehlbach 2007:28), and steatite (Holzapfel/Converse 2007:6).

Both men and women smoked pipes among the Chippewa and probably also among the Ft. Ancient people. According to Frances Densmore (1929:144), men smoked larger pipes made of catlinite (red pipestone), and women smoked small elbow-shaped pipes. The type of smoking material used is conjectural.

References Cited

Densmore, Frances
1929 *Chippewa Customs*. Bureau of American Ethnology *Bulletin* 86.

Eberle, Don
2004 A Unique Pipe. *Ohio Archaeologist* 54(4):34.

Gehlbach, Don
2007 An Unusual Fort Ancient Human Effigy Pipe. *Ohio Archaeologist* 57(1):28.

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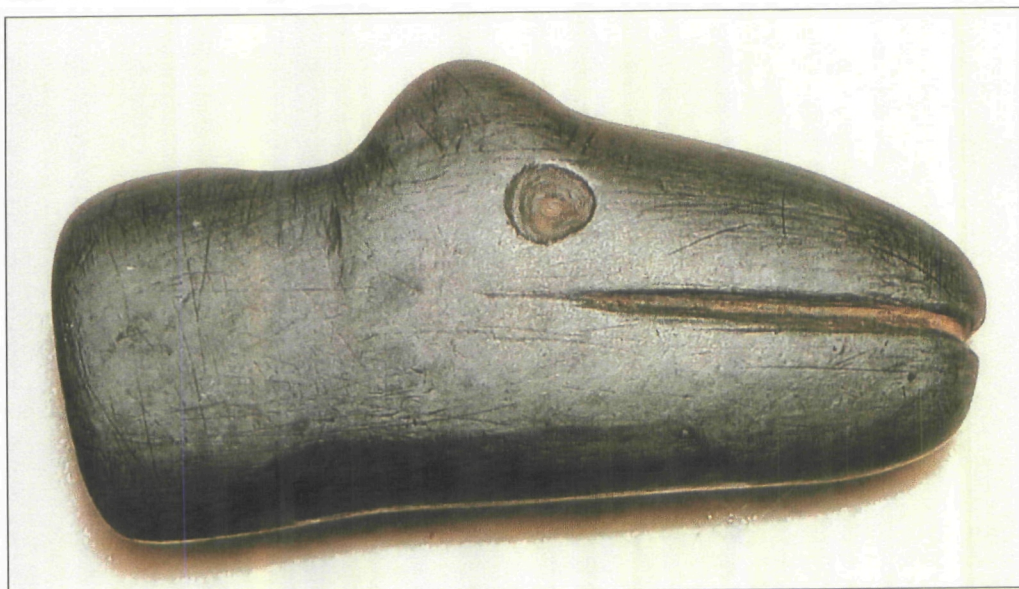


Figure 1 (Holzapfel) Ft. Ancient pipe found in Putnam County, Ohio.

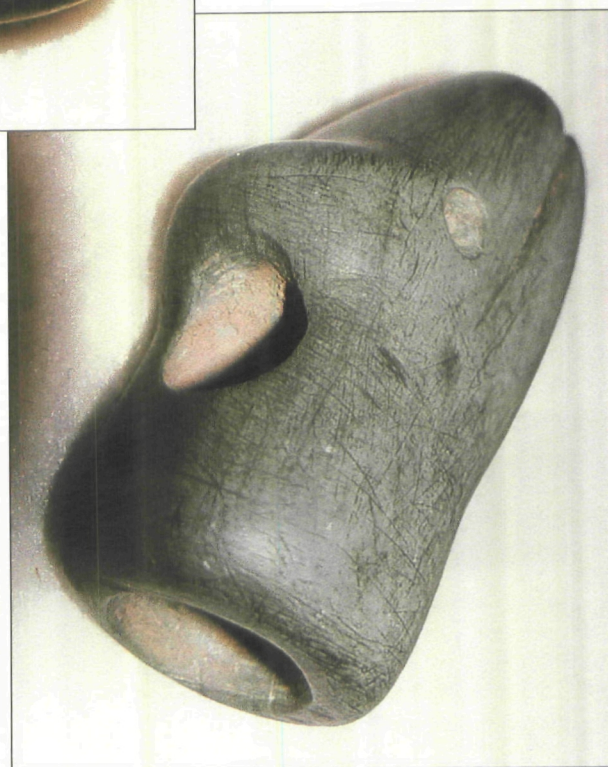


Figure 2 (Holzapfel)
Pipe depicts head
of a deer.